

New Caregiver Handbook

A Guide to Navigating Unfamiliar and
Unknown Situations in Caregiving



Dear Caregiver,

Welcome. We are so glad you're here, and we want to begin by saying thank you. Whether you are stepping into foster care, kinship care, or another caregiving role, you have said yes to something brave and deeply meaningful. You are opening your home and your heart to a child who needs safety, steadiness, and connection, right now. That choice matters more than you may ever fully know.

This journey can be complicated and exhausting. There may be days when you feel like you're learning a new language overnight, or when the system feels heavy and the questions feel endless. And there will also be moments of deep reward, moments of laughter, trust, healing, and joy that stay with you. In all of it, please remember: you are not alone. We at the Foster Families Navigation & Resource Center (FFNRC) are here for you. We are honored to walk alongside you with answers, support, encouragement, and resources whenever you need them. Please call, text, or email us anytime. No question is too small, and you never have to figure this out by yourself.

How to use this guide

This New Caregiver Handbook was created to be a practical, flexible tool for real life in your home. You'll find space to gather key contacts, track important information, and keep notes you'll want to have handy later. There are checklists and tips to support you through placement calls, the first days and weeks with a child, and the everyday moments that follow. The goal is simple: to help you feel more prepared, more organized, and more supported as you go.

There isn't one "right" way to use or keep this handbook. Some caregivers like to create one binder for each child so everything (papers, routines, appointments, school information, and notes) stays together in one place. Others prefer one larger binder for all children in their care, adding dividers as needed. Do whatever feels simplest and most supportive of you. Just as foster care and kinship care are not one-size-fits-all, this guide isn't either. It is here to meet you where you are, to lighten the mental load, and to help you navigate the road ahead with a little more confidence. Use the parts that serve you most, skip what doesn't, and come back to sections as your needs change.

We're truly grateful for you. Thank you for stepping into this role with courage, compassion, and commitment. You are making a difference, day by day, moment by moment—and we are cheering you on the whole way.

With appreciation and support,

Your FFNRC Team

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Emergency Info



Fire Department: _____

Police Department: _____

Poison Control: _____

Mental Health: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Emergency Contact #: _____

Neighbor Name: _____

Neighbor Contact #: _____

Worker Name: _____

Worker #: _____

Supervisor #: _____

Emergency Worker #: _____

Closest Hospital

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Peditrician: _____

Dentist: _____

Other: _____

Other: _____

Allergies: _____

Medication: _____

Medication: _____

Medication: _____

Location of First Aid: _____

Child's DOB: _____

Child's Weight: _____

Additional Info: _____

Insurance Info

Provider Name: _____

Provider #: _____

Additional Info: _____

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

IF IT IS AN EMERGENCY CALL 9-1-1



LGBTQIA+

CALL: 1-866-488-7386
TEXT: Text "START" to 678-678



SUICIDAL/DEPRESSED

CALL OR TEXT: 988



ABUSE / DATING VIOLENCE

Abuse: CALL or TEXT: 1-800-422-4453
Dating Violence: CALL: 1-866-331-9474



OTHER CRISIS

Runaway: CALL 1-800-786-2929
Talk to a teen: CALL 1-800-852-8336
TEXT "teen" to 839-863 or "youth" to 741-741
Substance Abuse Crisis: CALL or TEXT 988



YOUR TEAM - CALL OR TEXT

Social worker:
Therapist:

Attorney:
CASA/GAL:



Check List

These pages can be used as a good starting point for asking and documenting questions for new foster child(ren) coming into your home.

Pages are provided to write down the answers to the questions asked.

Foster Parent Resource

Question Checklist



Use this checklist to ask your caseworker about the resources and supports available to you. Bring it to placement meetings and case reviews, and check items off as you go.

Local Resources

- Clothing: _____
- WIC: _____
- Day Care Assistance: _____
- Foster Care Navigator: _____

Financial & Material Support

- What is the monthly foster care reimbursement rate for this child's age group, and when can I expect the first payment?
- Are there additional clothing or initial placement allowances available?
- Is there mileage reimbursement for transporting the child to visits, school or medical appointments? If so, what forms need to be filled out and by when?
- Are there special funds available for extracurriculars, sports, camps, tutoring, etc? If so, are there forms needed and when do they need to be filled out by?

Medical, Dental & Behavioral Health

- Does the child have any upcoming medical appointments?
 - Does the child have an established provider or do we need to find one?
 - Who schedules the initial health and dental exams, and within what timeframe?
 - Schedule medical, if needed - *initial placement within 30 days*
 - Schedule dental, if needed - *initial placement within 90 days*
- Is the child taking any medication?
 - If yes, what are they?
 - If the child needs medication, what is my role vs. yours in authorizing and monitoring it?

Medical, Dental & Behavioral Health Cont.

- Does the child need therapies?
 - Early On
 - Behavioral Health
 - PT, OT, Speech?
 - ABA
- Does the child qualify for trauma assessment?
- Who handles behavioral health referrals (therapy, psychiatry)?
- Does the child have IEP or 504?
- Are their crisis lines or emergency behavioral supports I should know about? If so, what is the after hours protocol and phone number?

Education & School Supports

- Do school records need to be transferred & what forms need to be filled out?
- Are tutoring or educational support services available, and how do I request them?
- If additional help is needed, see if there are services available from thearc.org Michigan.

Visitation & Family Connections

- What is the current visitation plan with the biological family, and who supervises it?
- Am I expected to transport the child to visits, or will the agency arrange transportation?
- Are sibling visits part of the plan, and how often should I expect those to happen?
- What is my role in communicating with the biological parents (sharing updates, school info, medical)?
- Parenting Time Schedule:
 - Times: _____
 - Dates: _____
 - Drop off & Pick Up Location: _____

Legal, Court & Case Planning

- Reach out to LGAL & schedule initial visit – *should see child within reporting window. Court date – Court date.*
- When are the next court dates and am I expected to attend?
 - Hearing Date: _____
 - Hearing Location: _____
 - Hearing Format: _____

Legal, Court & Case Planning Cont.

- Who else is on the child's case team (GAL, CASA, therapists, etc.), and how do I reach them?
- What decisions can I make under the "reasonable and prudent parent standard" without needing permission?

Licensing: Training & Support for Me

- Are there support groups, either in-person or virtual, that you recommend?
- What respite care options are available if I need a break or emergency coverage? What is the process & what forms are needed?
- Is there a foster care navigator I can be connected with?

Emergency & After Hours

- Who do I call after hours or on weekends if there is a crisis?
- What situations require immediate reporting and how do I document them?
- If I can't reach you, is there an agency hotline or back up worker?

Quick Reference

These pages can be used as quick reference sheets when needed to refer to.

Local Resources

- Clothing:** _____
- WIC:** _____
- Day Care Assistance:** _____
- Foster Care Navigator:** _____

Medical, Dental & Behavioral Health

- Primary Care** _____
- Dentist** _____
- Therapy(ies)** _____

- Medications:** _____
Name & Dose _____

Visitation & Family Connections

- Parenting Time Schedule:**
 - Times: _____
 - Dates: _____
 - Drop off & Pick Up Location: _____

- Sibling Visit Schedule:**
 - Times: _____
 - Dates: _____
 - Drop off & Pick Up Location: _____

Legal, Court & Case Planning

Hearing

- Hearing Date: _____
- Hearing Location: _____
- Hearing Format: _____

Hearing

- Hearing Date: _____
- Hearing Location: _____
- Hearing Format: _____

Hearing

- Hearing Date: _____
- Hearing Location: _____
- Hearing Format: _____

Child's Case Team - Name, Title, Contact Info

Other Important Info

Important Questions to Ask



Important Questions
to Ask

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Pages are provided to write down the answers to the questions asked.

PLACEMENT CALL

Basics

- Gender:
- Birth date:
- Ethnicity:
- Religion:
- Language Spoken:
- Reason for moving homes:

School

- Grade:
- School they attend and where:
- IEP or Early Intervention Client:

History

- How long they have been in care:
- Is this their first removal?
- How many homes have they been in? (Okay to as why they are being removed & if foster parent is requesting removal.)
- Siblings in Placements & sibling visits?
- Does the child have any triggers?
- Has the child shown any sexual behaviors that are concerning or have they been sexually assaulted?

Baby Specific

- Suspected or confirmed substance abuse:
- If in NICU, can you visit?
- Any Injuries:

Medical

- Diagnoses (symptoms, see a specialist (how often?))
- Allergies (food, animals, medications):
- Medications:
- Specialized rate or training needed:
- Toilet Trained?
- Therapy (Physical, speech, OT) (How often, where?)

Parenting Time

- How Often:
- Type (phone, video, in-person?)
- Where & When?
- Transportation Plan:
- Who is monitoring?
- Visits with other family?

Placement Type

- Emergency/Short Term Need:
- Kinship being considered or ICPC:
- Has TPR Occurred?
- ICWA

Other

- Developmental Considerations:
- Behavioral Conditions:
- History of running away, taking things, harming animals, drug and/or alcohol use:
- Have they been around pets (if you have pets in the home):
- Trauma Triggers or Considerations?
- Concerning behaviors and what they look like?

PLACEMENT CALL

Basics

- Gender: _____
- Birth date: _____
- Ethnicity: _____
- Religion: _____
- Language Spoken: _____
- Reason for moving homes: _____

School

- Grade: _____
- School they attend and where: _____
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Baby Specific

- Suspected or confirmed substance abuse: _____
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- Allergies (food, animals, medications): _____

- Medications: _____

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- Toilet Trained? _____
- Therapy (Physical, speech, OT) (How often, where? _____

Parenting Time

- How Often: _____
- Type (phone, video, in-person? _____
- Where & When? _____
- Transportation Plan: _____
- Who is monitoring? _____
- Visits with other family? _____

PLACEMENT CALL

Placement Type

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Other

- Developmental Considerations: _____

- Behavioral Conditions: _____

- History of running away, taking things, harming animals, drug and/or alcohol use: _____

- Have they been around pets (if you have pets in the home): _____
- Trauma Triggers or Considerations? _____

- Concerning behaviors and what they look like? _____

PREVIOUS CAREGIVER/BIO PARENT QUESTIONS

Schedule

- Morning Routine:
- Nap Timing:
- Bedtime Routine:
- Bathroom:

Favorites

- TV Show (name and streaming service):
- Activity/Hobby
- Song
- Book
- Toy
- Game

Food

- Formula Brand/Other Brands They Like
- Breakfast Food
- Lunch Food
- Dinner Food
- Snacks
- Dessert

People

- Teacher
- Daycare Provider
- Relatives

Hygiene Products and Brands They Like / Things to avoid

Triggers + Behaviors + Interventions That Work

Comfort Items/ Special Items

Sensory Needs

Fears/Worries

PREVIOUS CAREGIVER/BIO PARENT QUESTIONS

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- Morning Routine: _____
- Nap Timing: _____
- Bedtime Routine: _____
- Bathroom: _____

Favorites

- TV Show (name and streaming service):

- Activity/Hobby:

- Song:

- Book:

- Toy:

- Game:

PREVIOUS CAREGIVER/BIO PARENT QUESTIONS

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- Formula Brand/Other Brands They Like: _____

- Breakfast Food: _____

- Lunch Food: _____

- Dinner Food: _____

- Snacks: _____

- Dessert: _____

People

- Teacher: _____

- Daycare Provider: _____

- Relatives: _____

PREVIOUS CAREGIVER/BIO PARENT QUESTIONS

Hygiene Products and Brands They Like / Things to avoid:

Triggers + Behaviors + Interventions That Work:

Comfort Items/ Special Items:

Sensory Needs

Fears/Worries

What to Expect In the First 30 days

The following pages will help you navigate the first 30 days of your placement. What needs to happen and when, etc.

What to Expect: A Guide to the First 30 Days

Worker Interaction

CPS will place a foster child in your home, but foster care will quickly take over. After initial placement, the foster care worker must make two face-to-face contacts with the child, one which shall occur in the foster home. One contact must occur in five business days, and the second within the first 30 calendar days of placement. From the 30–60-day time frame, another two face-to-face contacts must occur with the child. After 60 days, face-to-face visits will occur once monthly.

Documents

Items to be furnished prior to or at the time of placement, or those that will be completed with you:

- Placement Outline—Provides information on reasons the child was removed, history of abuse/neglect, physician information, health information, emotional/behavioral factors, and plans for visitation.
- Consent to Treat Card—Card with the Medicaid ID for the child to use at medical appointments or to seek treatment.
- Medical Passport—A listing of the child’s medical history.
- Level of Care Assessment- determine what type of care if needed for the child.
- Educational Records
- Early Intervention Assessment-for kids under 3 years old
- Treatment Plan (if the case has already been opened and placement in home is not first placement for the child).
- DOC (Determination of Care)—Done at case on set and every six months to determine supplemental payment amount for the care of the youth.
- Clothing Inventory—Provided by foster parent and returned to worker to access funds for clothing. Seasonal allowances will be issued twice annually following the initial clothing allowance provision.
- Foster Care Bill of Rights—Form provided to explain rights and responsibilities of foster care workers and youth.

Tasks

- A well-child exam shall be completed with the child’s primary doctor within 30 days.
- Nurse home visit- for medically fragile children (if needed).
- A dental exam shall be completed within 90 days. *An HLO (Health Liaison) is available to aid in scheduling.
- Trauma screens will be completed to assess the need for mental health services for the youth.

- Forensic Exam- Concern about sexual abuse (if needed)
- Apply through DHHS for daycare assistance.
- Apply through the health department for WIC (if age applicable).
- Request transportation logs for reimbursement to and from parenting visits.
- Attending an FTM (Family Team Meeting). This meeting will be held within the first 30 days and again every 90 days for interaction and collaboration in case planning.
- Ice breaker meeting with Bio parents.
- Initial visit with the child and their bio parents- can be over the phone or in person.
- Formal Visit with bio parents- based on visitation plan and will happen after court.

Court

The child will be assigned an attorney (GAL) who will visit every quarter before court. The court proceedings occur as follows:

- Investigators- can come visit the child determined by age if they can advocate what happened. (Can be triggering)
- Advocate- someone from the attorney's office can meet with the child.
- Pretrial- Opportunity for parent discussion with the court and their attorney on whether they are choosing to take the case to a bench trial, jury trial or plea to the petition that was filed to give the County jurisdiction over the youth. This can take 90 days sometimes.
- Bench trial- DHHS/private agency provides a list of witnesses to prove why the court should take jurisdiction over the child, Judge only hears this case and decides.
- Jury Trial- Same as a bench trial except it is in the jury's hands regarding the decision.
- Disposition- Hearing where the parents are ordered to do services anything before this date- services are voluntary to do.
- Initial Review Hearing - This is a hearing that is held to provide updates regarding the progress and barriers still in place.
- Permanency Planning Hearings - This is where DHHS reviews the permanency goal and can request goal change. If there is a goal change to adoption, DHHS has 28 days to file a termination petition.
- Termination Trial- DHHS and service providers provide testimony regarding what was offered to the parents to rectify the barriers and the lack of progress.
- Post Termination Hearing - These are only for permanent court wards, following termination of parental rights.

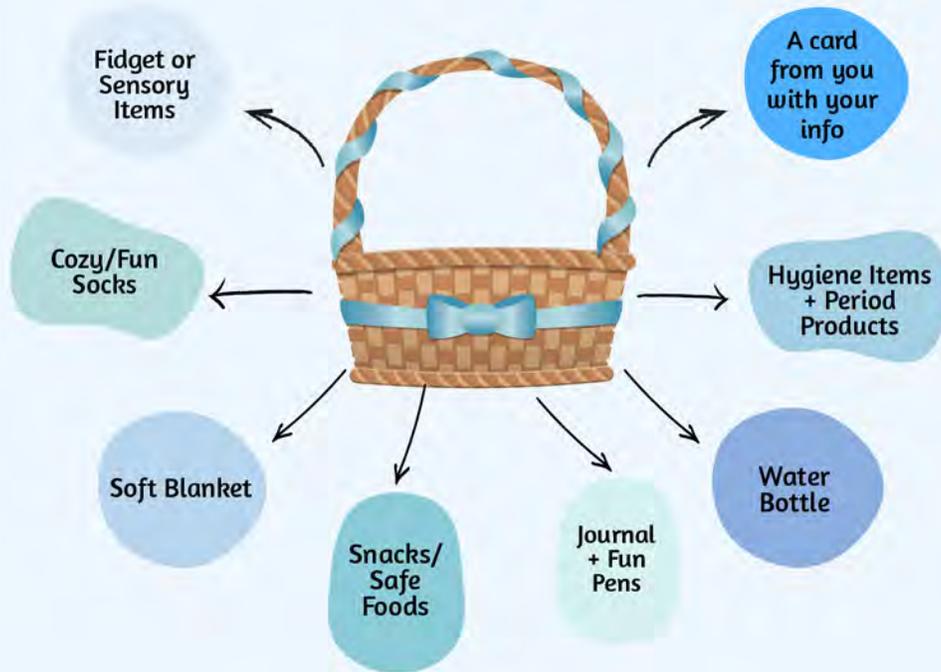
Preparing for a Placement

The following pages are some ideas on how to prepare for your new placement

Preparing for Placement

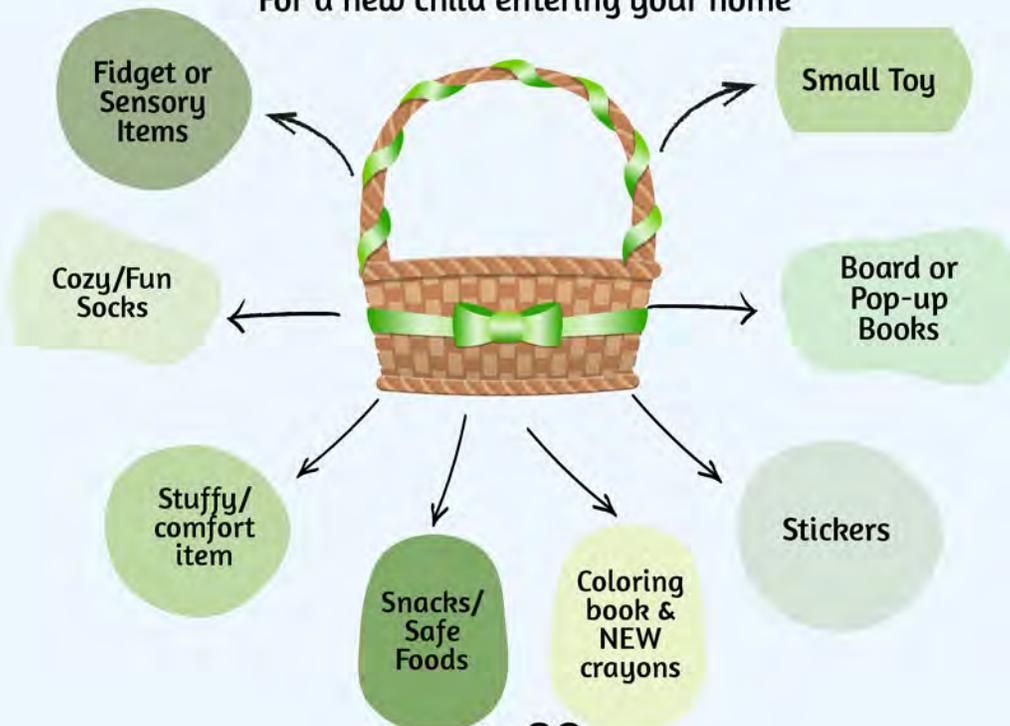
Older Child Welcome Kit

For a new child entering your home



Younger Child Welcome Kit

For a new child entering your home



Must-Haves By Age Group

Infant

- Diapers
- Unscented laundry detergent
- Wipes
- Aquaphor- diaper cream
- Bottles
- Pacifiers
- Teethers/mitts

Tot

- Pull ups
- Comfort items (stuffy blanket)
- Toothbrush
- Aquaphor
- Bed guard rail
- Kid servingwear/cups
- Wipes
- Table booster seat

Younger

- Fidget toys
- Comfort items (stuffy blanket)
- Toothbrush
- Hair/Grooming items
- Goodnites
- Kid servingwear/cups

Older

- Fidget toys
- Access to computer
- Toothbrush
- Hair/Grooming items
- Period products

Add-Ons By Age Group

Infant

- Diaper Genie
- Taggie/baby toys
- Play mat
- Rocking Chair
- Hankerchief bibs
- High chair
- Diaper bag
- Butt spatula

Tot

- Diaper Genie
- Potty training toilet
- Step stool
- Rocking Chair
- Therapeutic toys
- Mattress Protector
- Star projector
- Sound Machine

Younger

- Board games
- Flashlight
- Foster care books
- Tablet
- Therapeutic toys
- Mattress Protector
- Star projector
- Weighted Blanket

Older

- Board games
- Flashlight
- Mini fridge (for room)
- Locking box (for room)
- Journal
- Mattress Protector
- Star projector
- Bike

Notes :

Lists do not include cribs or beds, car seats, or clothing. I recommend convertible beds and seats wherever possible. Lists do not include food or snacks. I recommend focusing on safe foods to start. List does not include child-proof/safety items and some toiletry items. Don't forget to make sure your home is always in compliance!

Notes :

Don't forget homework/school supplies, art supplies, outdoor toys and games, and other fun! You will also need to stock your medicine cabinet depending on the age and medical needs of the child!

GO-Bag for Appointments/Meetings

What to Bring to Meetings/Appointments

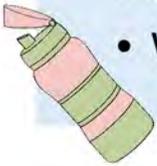
Folder:

- Keep all important information and any paperwork that may need to be given to another person at the meeting(s).
- You may not need everything in the folder for every meeting but having the important things is vital



Personal Items:

- Layers - the meeting spaces may be cold.
- Water bottle - meetings may run long so it is best to be prepared



For the Kids

- Fully loaded Diaper Bag -Diapers, wipes, formula, change of clothes, pacifiers, burp cloths, blanket
- Snacks and Drinks
- Medications (if needed)
- Toys - Fidgets, coloring books, crayons, books, etc.
- Comfort Item (if needed)
- School work or photos to show parents (for parent visits)



Welcoming new child(ren) to your home.

The following pages are some ideas on how to welcome the new child(ren) to your home, guidelines, bonding worksheets, etc.

Welcoming the new
child(ren) to your home

WELCOME TO OUR HOME

HERE IS SOME INFORMATION ABOUT US



Name:
Cell Number:
Favorite things:



Name:
Cell Number:
Favorite things:



Name:
Age:
Favorite things:

SOME EXTRA INFO

Your Space

This is your room! If you want to personalize your space, let us know! We would love to get you blankets that are more of your style and decorate the room with wall stickers. **(Make this your own, what your family is willing to do)**

You will find a lock box in your closet. This is your private space to keep your important things. We will not open the box unless we are worried about your safety. **(Up to your family if you want to add)**

We have also left snacks in your room. You can eat in your room as long as you use the covered trash can and fridge. It's important we store the food in the fridge to prevent food from spoiling or bugs.

Need something?

Please let us know if there is anything you need - clothing, things for the bathroom, food, etc.

Need something at night?

Feel free to knock on our door, yell for us, or text! **(Personalize for your home)**

House Rules

We have rules in our home to make sure everyone stays safe. I've included a copy of the rules, but if you have questions or worries about certain rules, please let us know. We are open to changing the rules to best work for everyone in the home.

Questions?

We are here to answer whatever we can - and if we don't know the answer to something, we will do our best to find out!



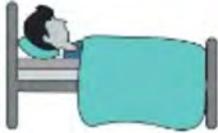
In This House We



EXAMPLES



Don't hit, bite, kick, or push people, walls, or objects.



Sleep in your own bed, bathe/shower alone



No alcohol, drugs, smoking, or vaping at any time, in any place



Clothing must be weather-appropriate



Change clothes privately, shut the door when bathing or using the bathroom



Respect and celebrate differences



Tell an adult if you do not feel well or if you are hurt



If you want to change a house rule, call a family meeting

FAMILY BUILDING & BONDING

WRITE DOWN THREE ACTIVITIES YOU CAN COMPLETE AS A FAMILY:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

WRITE DOWN EACH CHILD NAME AND THEN SPECIFY THREE ACTIVITIES THAT CAN BE COMPLETED WITH EACH CHILD.

CHILD 1:

Activity 1: _____

Activity 2: _____

Activity 3: _____

CHILD 2:

Activity 1: _____

Activity 2: _____

Activity 3: _____

CHILD 3:

Activity 1: _____

Activity 2: _____

Activity 3: _____

CHILD 4:

Activity 1: _____

Activity 2: _____

Activity 3: _____





BIG FEELINGS

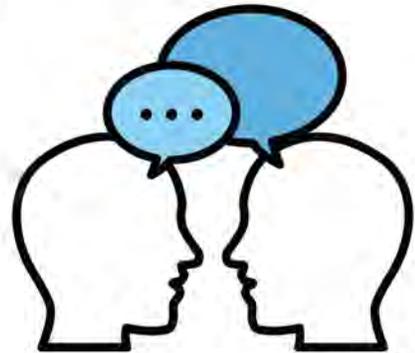
List feelings of distress. E.g. Anxiety, Depression.

-
-
-
-

List calming strategies that you can complete when you feel distress:

-
-
-
-

CONVERSATIONS



Who can I have conversations with?

1.

2.

3.

What can the conversations be about?

For the Child(ren)

The following pages are some ideas on how to navigate meals for children that are not talking or unable to talk and the importance of relationship with bio parents

**For The
Child(ren)**

Meal Time Help

To help make meals a little easier for the children that are not comfortable with speaking yet, lack vocabulary, or are non-verbal using charts like those that follow may be useful! This is just an example.

Breakfast



Cereal



Granola



Scrambled Eggs



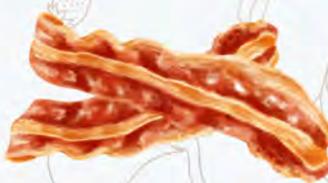
Waffle



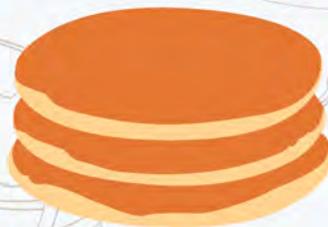
Yogurt



Breakfast Sausage



Bacon



Pancakes



something Else?

Meal Time Help

To help make meals a little easier for the children that are not comfortable with speaking yet, lack vocabulary, or are non-verbal using charts like those that follow may be useful!

Dinner/Lunch



Peanut Butter &
Jelly



Grilled Cheese



Burger



Hot Dog



Taco



Mac & Cheese



Chicken Nugget



Pizza



something Else?

Meal Time Help

To help make meals a little easier for the children that are not comfortable with speaking yet, lack vocabulary, or are non-verbal using charts like those that follow may be useful! This is just an example.

Sides/Snacks



Carrots



Celery



Broccoli



Strawberry



Oranges



Blueberries



Apple Slices



Apple Sauce



something Else?



Why Building a Relationship with the Birth Family?

- The birth family may need your support to get through this difficult time. You may be the only support person they have.
- Children often identify strongly with their birth parents, even if those parents have neglected or abused them. The birth family will always be part of your child's history and, in many cases, their future.
- Separation from one's family is a lifelong trauma with lasting effects. A foster parent's love for a child is shown most clearly when they do what they can to help that child reunify with their family, if possible—even if it's uncomfortable or means losing that child from their daily life.
- When a child returns home, you'll have a better chance of maintaining a relationship with them if you've built a trusting relationship with their birth family.

Ways to Initiate Communication

- Get a notebook to exchange during visits. Include updates, schoolwork, art projects, and pictures for the birth parent to read and respond to if they wish.
- Create a closed Facebook page to share updates and photos.
- Set up a private email account for one-on-one communication.
- Use a private Google Voice or similar phone number that redirects to your phone for privacy.
- Communicate in person when possible. Offer to transport to visits, ask to meet the birth parents, and seek their input by asking questions about their child.
- Try to include birth parents in meetings and appointments that involve their child whenever appropriate.

Caregiver Tips

- Don't assume a child acting out or being upset after a visit means the visits are harmful. It's common for children to show strong emotions before, during, and after visits.
- Take small steps as you build trust. You can start with a communication notebook or brief in-person interactions.
- Don't share personal information you're not comfortable giving right away. Keep details such as your last name, phone number, and address private until trust is well established.
- Always check with the caseworker if you're unsure about boundaries or what's appropriate to share.

Foster Care Navigator

**Foster Care
Navigator**



What is the Foster Care Navigator Program (FCNP)?

The Foster Care Navigator Program (FCNP) is made up of a dedicated team of individuals throughout the state of Michigan, committed to providing information, resources, and support to all current and prospective foster families.

What is a Foster Care Navigator?

Foster Care Navigators are experienced foster parents who are ready to support you through each step of becoming a licensed foster parent!

Our staff of Navigators work in tandem with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and private agencies to support the continuing growth of Michigan’s foster parent population. We work to empower, educate and advocate for all individuals who wish to become or continue as foster parents.

Foster Care Navigator services are delivered using a strength based and solution focused model.

Why choose a Foster Care Navigator?

Whether you have been a foster parent for several years or are just inquiring about becoming a foster parent for the first time, the benefits of having a Navigator are invaluable.

As members of the fostering community themselves, Foster Care Navigators have a unique skills set designed to assist current and prospective foster parents by providing the following services:

- Making the licensure process more manageable by navigating it with you
- Working with you to find solutions to any barriers that may be holding up or preventing the licensure process
- Providing emotional and concrete support to address any challenges you may face while on the path to becoming a foster parent
- At times, acting as a liaison between you and your licensing agency
- Helping you discover resources that exist within your community
- Connecting you with support groups in your area
- Serving as a continuing source of information and support even after your licensure is complete

But it doesn't stop there! Our Navigators are here for YOU, so the services you receive will be catered to the needs of your family.

My foster care navigators name: _____

My foster care navigators phone number: _____

OR call **855-MICH-KIDS** to get connected with a Navigator

Additional Resources

**Additional
Resources**

Additional Resources that might be helpful:

- ▶ If you have a child placed in your home between the ages of 0-5 years of age, they qualify for WIC benefits, no matter what your household income is. Here is a link to Michigan's WIC directory, or just search for Michigan WIC directory to find contact info for your local WIC office.
https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/-/media/Project/Websites/mdhhs/Assistance-Programs/WIC-Media/WIC_Agency_List.pdf
- ▶ If you have a child between the ages of 3-5 years of age placed in your home, they qualify for FREE preschool through local Head Start and GSRP programs, no matter what your household income is. <https://greatstarttoquality.org/free-preschool-programs/>
- ▶ If you work in or out of your home, you should qualify for help paying for child care costs. Visit www.greatstarttoquality.org to search for quality child care in your area. Be sure to ask your licensing worker or foster care navigator how to apply for CDC (Child development and care benefits). These benefits are not based off the foster parent's income.
- ▶ Children in foster care often qualify for summer camp scholarships. Ask your foster care navigator or licensing worker for a list of camps in your area.
- ▶ If you take placement of a teenager over the age of 14, there are many different services and resources available to help them reach their fullest potential. You can visit <https://www.michigan.gov/fyit> click on "A Handbook for Foster Youth in Care – Now Available" and scroll down to "services and resources."
- ▶ If you need help getting a child back and forth to parenting time due to your work schedule or other reasons, reach out to the child's worker to see if staff is available to help.
- ▶ If you are the transporter to and from parenting time, you can get reimbursed for mileage to and from the visits. Keep track and submit your mileage at the end of each month to the child's foster care worker. Your agency may have a specific form you can keep track of the mileage on.
- ▶ FIG (Family Incentive Grant) funds might be available to help you with the cost of the following appropriate expenditures: home improvement purchases or services required to meet DCWL licensing standards, and items needed to ensure child safety. Examples include but are not limited to: beds/cribs, car seats, appliance or furnace repair.

If you ever have a question about any of these items listed here, or anything foster care related, remember you can **always reach out and ask!** Who do you ask? You can reach out to your foster care navigator, licensing worker, or staff at the Foster Families Navigation and Resource Center. We're here for you!

Foster Care Navigator: _____

Licensing Worker: _____

The Foster Families Navigation and Resource Center: 989-266-7020 or fosterfamiliesnrc@gmail.com